



February 23, 2009



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PRESS ADVISORY

D.C. Courts to Host Expert on Slavery and D.C Emancipation for Black History Month Celebration

- WHAT:** D.C. Courts' Black History Month event
- WHERE:** Jurors' Lounge – Room 3300
Moultrie Courthouse, 500 Indiana Avenue, NW
- WHEN:** Friday, February 27th
Noon to 2 PM
- WHO:** Dr. Ira Berlin, Professor of U.S History, University of Maryland

Dr. Ira Berlin has written extensively on American history, particularly the history of slavery. His first book, *Slaves Without Masters: The Free Negro in the Antebellum South* (1975), won the best First Book Prize awarded by the National Historical Society. Dr. Berlin is the founder of the *Freedmen and the Southern Society Project*. The project's multi-volume *Freedom: A Documentary History of Emancipation* has won the Prize for Excellence in Civil War studies by the Lincoln and Soldiers Institute of Gettysburg College. Other prize-winning books by Dr. Berlin include *Many Thousands Gone: The First Two Centuries of Slavery in Mainland North America* and *Generations of Captivity: A History of Slaves in the United States*. Dr. Berlin is also one of the editors of recordings of the recollections of former slaves entitled *Remembering Slavery: African Americans Talk About Their Personal Experiences of Slavery and Emancipation*. For those who are interested in military history, he is a co-author of *Freedom's Soldiers: The Black Military Experience in the Civil War*.

Dr. Berlin has been awarded grants by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Arco Foundation, the National Historical Publication and Records Commission, and the University of Maryland. He has served as president of the Organization of American Historians and was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Berlin will welcome questions about any aspect of slavery and emancipation.

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PRESS NOTE: Cameras and recorders are allowed into the courthouse for this event; however, you must call in advance for permission to bring photographic or recording devices into the courthouse (879-1700).